

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03  
H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 /069 W  
-----021929Z 022146 /46

R 020910Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7845  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0349

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: HU, SHUM  
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PAPER COMMENTS ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER  
RE BUDAPEST CHILD MURDER CASE

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, APPARENTLY ON GROUNDS OF ITS  
OPPOSITION TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN GENERAL, HAS WRITTEN  
TO HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES WITH REQUEST TO ALTER DEATH  
SENTENCE IMPOSED ON ONE IMRE MISKEI WHO WAS RECENTLY  
CONVICTED OF MURDERING A CHILD ON CASTLE HILL IN BUDAPEST  
LAST AUTUMN.

2. JANUARY 30 EDITION OF HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CARRIES  
SIGNED COMMENT BY DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR PETER  
VAJDA CONDEMNING FACT THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SHOULD HAVE  
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COME TO THE DEFENSE OF A COMMON CRIMINAL, AND THAT  
UNDER GUISE OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS TAKE UP THE  
CAUSE OF SOMEONE PROPERLY CONVICTED ACCORDING TO HUN-  
GARIAN LAWS.

3. VAJDA IS CORRECT IN POINTING OUT THAT MISKEI IS  
A COMMON CRIMINAL PROPERLY CONVICTED OF WANTONLY

MURDERING A CHILD. PURPOSE OF ARTICLE HOWEVER IS CLEARLY TO SEIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MISREPRESENT THE POSITION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT IN HUNGARIAN EYES AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL DISSIDENTS AND THUS HAS AROUSED OFFICIAL HOSTILITY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND NEIGHBORING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

4. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF ARTICLE:

BEGIN EXCERPTS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERS ITSELF PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALL OVER WORLD. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT MAKE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN CONVICTED PERSONS. NO JUST STANDARD PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS EXISTS WITHOUT SUCH DISTINCTIONS. THEY REQUEST HUNGARY TO ALTER DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED ON IMRE MISKEI WHO BRUTALLY MURDERED AN 8 YEAR OLD GIRL. SURPRISINGLY THEY ARE TAKING SIDES WITH A CONVICT WHOSE BRUTAL ACT HAS EVOKED STORM OF RIGHTFUL ANGER, WHOSE ACT MUCH THE SAME AS CARRIED OUT BY MURDERER OF FOUR CHILDREN IN LONDON AND PERPETRATORS OF OTHER VICIOUS CRIMES IN FRANCE AND AUSTRIA. NEITHER CAN IT BE TAKEN AS EXPLANATION THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS OBJECTING TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE SENTENCE IS NOW UNDER APPEAL. ON WHAT GROUNDS COULD AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CLAIM PRETEXT TO INTERFERE WITH HUNGARIAN JUDICIARY. IT IS HARD TO AVOID GUESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPECIALIZED RECENTLY IN SLANDERING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAVE STRANGE REFLEX. THE MOMENT THEY HEAR ABOUT A SENTENCE IN A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, THEY THINK THIS IS TIME FOR DOING SOMETHING. WHAT KIND OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION MUST STAND UP TO PROTECT A CHILD MURDERER? END EXCERPTS. DACHI

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, PENAL SYSTEM, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, EXECUTIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** HUNGARIAN PAPER COMMENTS ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER RE BUDAPEST CHILD MURDER CASE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, HU, US, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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